

THE NATIONAL FUNDS.

Items From the Treasurer's Report For the Month of October.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3.—The public debt statement issued from the Treasury Department shows a reduction in the debt amounting to \$9,104,853 during the past month of October. The total debt, less cash in the treasury, was \$1,060,000,000, and of this amount \$852,635,670 is bonded indebtedness. The net cash or surplus in the treasury is \$45,835,702, or \$1,000,000 less than a month ago. National bank depositors hold \$47,939,498 of Government funds, or \$400,000 less than on October 1. The gold fund balance during the past month has decreased \$1,500,000 and now amounts to \$187,572,386. The silver fund balance, exclusive of \$6,000,000 trade dollar bullion, has decreased about \$500,000 and amounts to \$11,102,000.

The treasury now holds 283,593,521 standard silver dollars, \$4,843,643 silver bullion and \$2,328,373 silver certificates, against which there is outstanding \$277,319,844 silver certificates. The silver fund balance reached the lowest point October 17, when after deducting silver certificates in circulation, a balance of but \$1,116,851 standard silver dollars and only \$1,551,957 in silver certificates remained in the treasury. Since that date there have been slight accumulations, almost from day to day, until the balance now stands only half a million less than October 1. The circulation of standard silver dollars has increased about \$2,500,000 during the past month, and amounted to \$59,885,480.

Government receipts during October aggregated \$32,452,607, or about half a million more than in October, 1888; customs receipts were \$18,155,040—nearly a million more than in October a year ago; internal revenue receipts were \$11,235,469—a hundred thousand more than in October, 1888; and receipts from miscellaneous sources amounted to \$2,052,097, or half a million less than in October a year ago. Government receipts for the first four months of the current fiscal year reached in the aggregate \$182,029,004, or barely \$100,000 more than for the corresponding months of the preceding fiscal year. Customs receipts for the past four months aggregated \$77,000,000 and internal revenue receipts \$46,500,000, and compared with the four months of the past fiscal year, the former shows a falling off of fully two millions and the latter an increase of about three millions and a half.

Government expenditures for the past four months of the current fiscal year aggregated \$124,396,539, or about \$14,000,000 more than for the corresponding four months of the preceding fiscal year. The principal increase over last year is in pensions, the charges for the past four months amounting to \$40,182,032, or \$11,000,000 more than for July, August, September and October, 1888.

During the past month the Government has paid out \$2,291,537 in premiums on bonds purchased, against \$4,518,457 in October a year ago, and for the past four months has expended \$8,600,925 in premiums on bonds purchased, against \$11,058,393 during the corresponding months of last year.

GILLETTE'S STATEMENT.

What He Says Burke Told Him Concerning Cronin's Murder.

WINNIPEG, Man., Nov. 3.—Assistant State's Attorney Baker, of Chicago, had a long interview with Bob Heffer, and from him received a corroboration of many of the details connected with the butchery of Cronin which Gillette recounted on Thursday.

Burke, according to Gillette, took a fancy to Heffer at first and was very communicative with him, telling him many details of the crime. He told Heffer that Cronin was the main actor in the crime. He told Heffer that sandbags were used by two of the assassins, while the third wielded a common baseball club.

Burke was under the impression that Cronin was being decoyed to the cottage under the pretext that he was going to attend the woman mentioned in Friday's dispatch.

Four men were waiting in the cottage for him. They listened for the sound of wheels. At last the carriage drove up and an instant later the doctor hurried up to the door. He knocked loudly and hastily as if he realized that his presence was urgently required.

Two of the assassins stood behind the door ready to strike, while one of the others, from the inner room, called out in a loud voice, "come in." The door was quickly opened and the doctor strode in.

The instant he was in one of the assassins slammed the door, while the other struck the physician a terrible blow with a sand bag. The doctor fell heavily to the floor.

The moment the doctor was down the whole four rushed on him with sandbags and clubs and pounded the life out of him.

Then the murderers stripped the blood-stained clothing off, and one of them pounded his face so as to make it impossible to recognize the body.

Coughlin then hauled the trunk over and the body was crammed into it. One of the quartette went out and brought an express wagon which had been left in a convenient place.

The trunk and its contents were taken to the lake, Coughlin driving the horse. There was no boat at the point to which they went and they tried to shove the trunk out into the water, but it would not work.

STOCK ITEMS.

Cows soon to calve should have a cool, laxative diet and not be overfed. If they are good milkers and are highly fed up to the time of calving there is danger of milk fever.

If a bull is naturally nervous and excitable give no oats as the oats will stimulate his condition. No corn or rye meal should be fed. When timothy hay is fed give more bran.

No man who understands the dairy business ever sells his best cows at any price. The better the dairyman the more suspicious the buyer should be of the cow he wants to sell.

The pampered calf brought up on whole milk is fat and sleek, but lacks the bone and muscle at eight months or a year old that are possessed of calves reared on oatmeal and bran mixed with skim milk.

Sheep like a sunny slope, where the sun strikes the grass and develops its nutritive qualities. If they have their choice of feeding ground on a hill, they will invariably spend the most of their time on the sunny side. For some reason the grass there is more palatable to them.

In summing up the results of a test comparing the feeding values of corn silage and field beets, the director of the Ohio experiment station says that "corn silage is slightly superior to field beets as a flesh or fat producer, and beets are slightly better than corn silage for milk production."

Young ewes may be poor mothers. It is better, therefore, to have them drop their lambs a little later than the older ewes do. The flockmaster will have more time to give them attention, and the weather will be warmer. April or May is time enough for a young ewe to drop her lamb.

A small cow with the right kind of machinery in her can get all the milk solids out of a given amount of feed as well as a big cow. But if you have good, big cows and they give you a fair profit, keep them, but breed them to the smallest dairy bull you can find, and if the result is a more concentrated cow, I think you are the gainer.—Cor. Rural New Yorker.

As soon as the coupling season is over the breeding ewes should be separated from the flock and fed on nourishing food. They should not be made too fat, for fear of milk fever at lambing time, but they require good feeding if they are to produce strong lambs. Plenty of hay with a mess of ground oats once a day should keep them in good condition without liability of the ewes becoming too fat.

There is one advantage in raising a good crop of turnips, and that is if they are not wanted to market or to use on the table, they can be used in feeding to the stock. The best plan is to chop them up reasonably fine so that the stock can eat them without risk of getting choked and then sprinkle them liberally with bran. If a little corn meal is added to the bran the quality of the food will be improved and in this way they can be made cheap and wholesome.—St. Louis Republic.

FARM NOTES.

There is usually a difference of five cents per pound between live and dry-picked poultry. Scalded poultry sells for about two cents per pound less than the dry picked.

With the generality of fruit trees the better plan is to keep in cultivation for six to ten years after setting out, taking care during this time to build up the fertility as much as possible.

The claim is made that, to a considerable extent, the mulch will regulate the strawberry season. Put on in the fall and left on until late, on some, and removed early on others, will lengthen out the season materially.

Apples to be stored away for long keeping must be handled very carefully. In sorting over, all speckled or bruised fruit should be taken out and only those that are perfectly sound be stored away. Then, if kept at low, even temperature, there is little risk but that they will keep in good condition.

If there is a fall of only a few feet for a large field one or two drain tiles will carry off the surplus water, but it is better to underlay the entire field with tile, as a piece of wet land will never prove profitable unless it can be gotten into condition for allowing the horses and plow on it.

Pears need better land than the apple and more constant culture. They should not be cultivated beyond midsummer, as this encourages a later growth of wood that will winter-kill in cold latitudes. There is no remedy for the pear blight except to remove the limbs as fast as they show the disease.

All materials added to the manure heap should be fine. The object of the heap is to have the material undergo a chemical process through decomposition, and the result to be obtained depends on the degree of decomposition. Unless reduced in the heap the material is not converted into manure.

A writer in the N. Y. World says one of the best ways to preserve sweet potatoes is to pack them in barrels in alternate layers of potatoes and perfectly dry leaves, and then set them away in a dry room where it does not freeze or get too cold. The leaves seem to absorb the moisture from the potatoes, and they keep well and are handy to take out as you want to use them. They ought not to touch one another, and should be perfectly dry and without a cut or scratch when they are put down, else they will soon rot.

Notes.

George Gardner, of Pawnee County, Neb., gathered from one acre of ground 163 bushels of corn. Mr. Gardner was competing for a \$500 prize and four reliable men assisted in the gathering and weighing and make affidavit that the above is a fact.

If a cider mill has been purchased, after the work is finished it should be thoroughly cleaned and washed up and then stored where it will be well protected until needed again. Leaving under a tree in the orchard is a very poor protection.

PETER THE GREAT.

The Half Crazy Imperial Genius Who Created Modern Russia.

In 1723 he created himself Emperor, placing the imperial crown upon his own head, and soon after on that of the Livonian peasant girl whom he married, the mistress of his favorite Prince Menschikoff, once an itinerant vender of meat pies; she afterward succeeded Peter as Empress Catherine I. His merciless cruelty was shown early, on his return from his first journey, after pulling down the revolt of the Streletz, a body of janissaries who had risen to replace his sister Sophia on the throne. He executed 2,000 of them in cold blood. His only son Alexis, who had opposed his measures and was accused among other crimes of "defending the proscribed beards and chaftans of the peasants" had gone abroad with his wife, but was lured home by an offer of reconciliation, when he was seized and condemned to death by his father and executed in prison.

His interference was a trying in small as in great things. One story of his didactic tyranny sounds like a lesson out of "Sandford and Merton." It is told by a Frenchman who heard it on the spot in Finland, where he was sent by Louis Philippe's government to obtain blocks of red porphyry which the Czar Nicholas had granted for the tomb of Napoleon under the dome of the Invalides at Paris. Peter was traveling incognito in part of Finland just conquered, where he was executing some naval works. He met an over-fat man, who told him he was going to Petersburg. "What for?" asked the Czar. "To consult a doctor about my fat, which has become very oppressive." "Do you know any doctor there?" "No." "Then I will give you a word to my friend, Prince Menschikoff and he will introduce you to one of the Emperor's physicians." The traveler went to the prince's house with a note, the answer was not delayed; the next day, tied hand and feet, the poor man was dragged off on a cart to the mines. Two years after Peter the Great was visiting the mines when suddenly the miner threw down his pick, rushed up to him, and fell at his feet, crying: "Grace, grace, what is it I have done?" Peter looked at him astonished, until he remembered the story, and said: "Oh, so that is you; I hope you are pleased with me. Stand up. How thin and slight you have become! You are quite delivered from your over-fat; it is a first-rate cure. Go, and remember that work is the best antidote against your complaint!" Probably, as over-fat is a disease, the poor man died of his "cure."

"The impatient activity of Peter," as a German writer calls it, attempted impossibilities; a perfectly barbarous people could not be dragged up to the level of civilization of other nations by mere force of a despot's will without passing through any of the intermediate stages. Accordingly the mass of the Russian people continues much the same in habits and education as they were when Peter began his reforms, and a sort of vanes among the people and military classes covers a degree of barbarism and corruption which the rest of Europe has long left behind. The restless ambition which he bequeathed to his successors has gone on to the present day. Cut off at first both from the Baltic and Black seas, they conquered the intervening territory in each case, and now declare that they will never rest until they get possession of the Dardanelles, "without which we have not the key to our own house," said Alexander the First.—Nineteenth Century.

PAINTING DIAMONDS.

How Stones of Small Value Are Doctored by Dishonest Experts.

There is one pawnbroker in Washington who has lost all faith in human honesty. Several months ago a nicely dressed man entered his shop and displayed a pair of diamond earrings upon which he desired to secure a loan. The stones had that peculiar bluish white color so highly prized among lovers of diamonds, and the pawnbroker readily advanced him \$250 on them. The stranger departed, and in due course of time the pawnbroker tried to dispose of them. He exhibited the diamonds to a well-known dealer, who said if they would stand a test they were easily worth \$1,500. The stones were removed from their settings and placed in a bottle of alcohol. They were then shaken for about five minutes, taken out and carefully cleaned. From the beautiful bluish white they had become as yellow as the Chinese flag, and were not worth over \$75. The expert said afterwards: "These stones were painted. The process is a very simple one. A small piece of indelible pencil is dissolved in a teaspoonful of water. The yellow diamond is then painted with a fine camel's hair brush dipped in the preparation and the stone is allowed to dry. The paint will wear off in time, but nothing will remove it quickly but alcohol. No reputable dealer will have any thing to do with such stones, but we have to keep a pretty sharp lookout for just such tricks as that one I exposed a few moments ago."—Boston Traveller.

The German Emperor's Bread.

The German Emperor is fond of variety, even in such small matters as his daily bread. Thus, for instance, he takes for breakfast a small white loaf, the top of which is powdered over with salt, and which, accordingly, goes by the name of salt-bun. Its cost is one penny. After it he consumes a half-penny bun, known as the "Luca-eye." For his sandwiches he requires yet another kind of bread, made of the finest Vienna flour and baked till the outside, which is afterwards cut off, is quite black. Price one penny. At dinner, with the soup, so-called "broth-sticks" are served. They are made after an Italian recipe, which is the secret of the court bakers, and their value is a halfpenny apiece.—Pall Mall Gazette.

Female pall-bearers were a feature of a recent funeral of a colored man at Augusta, Ga. But one man was present at the funeral—the sexton of the cemetery.

HONEST CARL DUNDER.

The Old Fellow Is Catching On to American Ways at Last.

"Hello! Mr. Dunder!" saluted Sergeant Bendall as that individual entered the Central station, with a broad, satisfied smile on his countenance.

"Hello! Sergeant. Vhas eaferythings all right mit you?"

"I guess so. You look happy."

"Sergeant, I vhas must like sweet oil. No more troubles for me. I vhas catching on to do shust like Americans."

"I am glad of that. You used to be terribly green."

"So I vhas. Three months ago I doan know some beans in a bag. Ha! ha! Der cows come along and take me for some grass. If it rains I shantid right out doors and get wet. Ha! ha! It makes me laugh when I see how green I vhas!"

"Anything happened lately?" queried the sergeant, in a careless way.

"Vhell, not much. Some fellers try to beat me, but dey doan' make out. I vhas too sharp for 'em. One feller comes along mit six pairs of sheep-shears in a bundle. He doan' want to sell dose shears, but he likes to borrow three dollars for one day and leaf 'em for security. If he doan' come pack in one day dose shears vhas mine."

"I see."

"He doan' come pack. Maybe he break his leg or something, but dot vhas nothing to me. I keep dose shears. If somebody beats me, sergeant, he shall haf to get up werry early in der morning."

"I presume so. Have you the shears there?"

"I haf. I belief you like to see 'em." "They are worth two shillings a pair," said the sergeant, after an inspection.

"You are out of pocket fourteen shillings, and what do you expect to do with sheep-shears?"

"Heafens! I doan' think of dot!" gasped Mr. Dunder as he grew white in the face.

"Any thing else?"

"Vhell, I get my life insured. I doan' belief I vhas sheated by dot. A feller comes along und says vhas I Carl Dunder? I vhas. Vhell, der President of der United States says he likes me to call on you and insure your life. Dis vhas a new company und a new idea. I let you in by der ground floor. I like your name to influence older people."

"How vhas dot new idea?"

"You pay only two dollars eafery twenty years, and if you die your wife gets \$75,000. It vhas der biggest thing out. Shildrens cry for it. Wanderbilt, Shay Gould, Russell Sage und all der big fellows vhas into it. How oldt you vhas—how vhas your grandmother—how many teeth have you lost oudt—vhas you eafar bit by some dogs—did you eafar own a white horse—how often you did down stairs—do you ride on some bicycles, and dis vhas der truth, der whole truth, und nothing but der truth."

"And he wanted the two dollars in advance?" queried the sergeant.

"Of course. Dot was to pay for shwearin' me."

"Well, you are beaten again, Mr. Dunder. Insurance men don't do business that way. Good day!"

"How you mean?"

"You had better go home. Have you got a tub in your house?"

"Of course."

"Any bran at the barn?"

"Yes."

"Well, make the tub about half full of mash and then put your head to soak for about forty-eight hours. When through buy some No. 4 sand-paper and polish it down to the bone."

"Sergeant, vhas I some greenhorns?"

"You are."

"Vhill I eafar learn somethings?"

"Never."

"Then, good-bye! I shant' try no more. It vhas a queer country, und nothing vhas der same two times alike. When my body was brought in here doan' make fun of it. Shust use it shently und say dot I did so well ash I could."

—Detroit Free Press.

CHUGWATER'S MISTAKE.

How the Growing Old Gentleman Put His Foot in It.

Mr. Chugwater (growing)—Samantha, that young Snodgers comes to this house altogether too often to suit me.

Mrs. Chugwater—He's a decent, civil sort of a young man. I have no objections to his coming.

Mr. Chugwater (raising his voice)—Well, I have! He may be a good average young man, but I tell you I don't want him about this house!

Mrs. Chugwater (placidly)—I don't see what business it is of yours, Mr. Chug—Mr. Chugwater (rising to his feet and bringing his fist down on the table)—You don't see what business it is of mine? Why, good heavens, madam! Ain't I the head of this family?

Mrs. Chugwater (mildly)—I suppose you consider yourself such.

Mr. Chugwater (in a towering rage)—I certainly do, madam! And if I say that giggling simpleton of a Snodgers isn't the kind of a man I want for a son-in-law it goes, Mrs. Chugwater! It goes in this family!

Mrs. Chugwater (sweetly)—It won't go this time, Josiah.

Mr. Chugwater (frantically and at the top of his voice)—You'll see madam! Tell me which one of the girls he comes to see! Deceive me if you dare, Mrs. Chugwater! Which is the one?

Mrs. Chugwater (pleasantly)—He comes to see the hired girl, Josiah.

THE TRUE PTARMIGAN.

An Arctic Bird Which Varies Its Garb Four Times a Year.

The true ptarmigan, I take it, is the most glacial development—a northernmost and peculiarly mountainous offshoot of the wintry willow grouse. It inhabits, says Dr. Dresser, the more elevated, rocky and barren localities, where it replaces the Scottish grouse and the willow grouse, and it seldom or never descends to the lowlands, where these latter species have their home, unless driven down by stress of weather in search after food. The ptarmigan ranges, in fact, in smaller bodies than the willow grouse, over larger areas of inaccessible rock. Being, therefore, much exposed to danger from birds of prey in open places, natural selection has insured its being very protectively colored: in other words, all those ptarmigan that could readily be seen have been eaten by hawks or similar enemies, and only those birds have been left to breed and reproduce their like which exactly matched the color of the ground at all seasons. So admirably has this result at last been attained (by what somebody has boldly described as the "masked beneficence" of the birds of prey) that one may walk through the very midst of a covey of ptarmigan, as they squat close to the ground, without ever so much as perceiving a single bird. Moreover, the ptarmigan varies its garb with the time of year as regularly and religiously as the drapers in Regent street. Not content with a single change, it goes in for separate winter, spring and autumn fashions. During the height of summer, when the ground in its native mountains is free from snow, it becomes dark in hue to suit the surrounding rocks. In autumn, when the abundance of mosses and lichens gives a gray appearance to the country, says Mr. Bowdler Sharpe, it dresses itself afresh in an ashy-gray tint. And, finally, in winter, when the snow lies thick around, it hides itself sedulously in snow-white plumage. This treble change of hue every year is probably unexampled in any other bird or animal. Ptarmigan are very large feeders, because they live on twigs of ling, crowberry and other extremely in nutritious foodstuffs, not even despising willow leaves, rushes, sedge and cottongrass. None of these can be accurately described as luxurious or unduly succulent viands. The natural consequence is that the poor birds have to spend most of their time feeding and the rest in digesting, in order to squeeze a livelihood out of their wretched pasture; so that that they almost resemble, in this respect, the herbivorous animals that chew the cud. That, indeed, is why they exist as a special species at all: they are willow grouse adapted, in the structure of their bodies and digestive organs, to the most unfavorable and coldest situations on the bleak and almost barren mountain tops.—Cornhill Magazine.

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CATARH.

Catarhal Deafness—Hay Fever—A New Home Treatment.

Sufferers are not generally aware that these diseases are contagious, or that they are due to the presence of living parasites in the lining membrane of the nose and eustachian tubes. Microscopic research, however, has proved this to be a fact, and the result of this discovery is that a simple remedy has been formulated whereby Catarrh, Hay Fever and Catarhal Deafness are permanently cured in from one to three simple applications made at home by the patient once in two weeks.

N. B.—This treatment is not a snuff or an ointment; both have been discarded by reputable physicians as injurious. A pamphlet explaining this new treatment